

*Original letter
photostatic
Mr. Simon*

Excerpt from
Letter dated Sept. 17, 1926
from George E. Cutley, 586 Newark Av J.C., N.J.
to Russell Watson, Esq.

I also received information relative to Inspector Faurot who informed a man named Frank Gorman, whom I saw and know, that when the imprint of the fingerprints on the card of Mr. Hall were shown to him, together with the fingerprints of Willie Stevens, Faurot responded, "I am willing to say from a comparison of these cards that the fingerprints are the same, but I will not say that the fingerprints were made four years ago." Faurot further told Gorman that after four years time, unless the card was preserved like they do at Police Headquarters, that the chemical composition of the card and its natural tendency to disintegrate would change the contour of the fingerprints. He also said to Gorman that it had always been a serious question in his mind as to whether the procuring of fingerprints left by criminals at the scene of the crime are of any evidencial value because it was his experience that only when the fingerprints were taken under the most auspicious circumstances as they do at Police Headquarters, could an expert be sure of the fact that an impression had been made (parenthetically, I may say that I assume you know the preliminary requisits for taking fingerprints - the cleansing of the fingers so that all foreign substance shall be cleaned away from the cuticle, the use of lamp black), etc. This is what I assume Faurot was referring to.

Faurot also told Gorman that there was a possibility that the fingerprints could have been taken from some other object and transferred to a card or surface and referred Gorman to an article in the American Mercury of 1925, in which this process was exposed in some incidental connection with the Sacco-vanzetti case. I looked up this article and I find out that what he says is scientifically possible.

105.898-
OVR.VW-
Fingerprints-
pl